

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST



6 JAN. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

A. Phoumi was busy yesterday making psychological warfare, mainly against us, in communiques alleging heavy fighting and a Chinese Communist invasion. We have no evidence of any changes in the military picture.

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our people on the scene warn that our relations with him are now such that, if he does decide to kick off something, the chances are that we would not know about it until after the fact.

B. We have no clear sign yet of Boun Oum's reaction to proposals for reconvening the three princes in Geneva. Ambassador Brown has made it clear to the government, that our decision on the continuation of aid will hinge on his response.

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2. Algeria

3. Congo

A. In Leopoldville, there seems to be more concern at the moment over Gizenga than over Tshombé, with some central authorities said to be ready to buy charges that UN aircraft have been supporting forces responsive to Gizenga in actions against Katanga troops. There are indications that Gizenga, feeling none too secure in Stanleyville, is on the way to northern Katanga, where we would expect him to make the most of the vacuum created by the recent withdrawal of Katangan forces. 50X1

B. There was no news yesterday on the Katanga assembly's deliberation over the Kitona agreement. 50X1

another development in Elizabethville: indications that the UN's chief civilian representative, Urquhart, is on the verge of a collapse, which would leave a complete void of civilian direction.

4. New Guinea developments
- A. There was still more tough talk and ominous gestures from the Indonesians yesterday, as they continue to force the issue. General mobilization has been ordered in the easternmost islands and Sukarno has announced that he is setting up a kind of shadow government for West New Guinea. Along with this, however, he called on his people to be "patient just a little longer."
- B. U Thant had intended to announce yesterday that he was ready for a third-party role, but the Indonesians' refusal to agree that there would be no preconditions to negotiations forced him to hold off.
- C. Earlier indications of a go-slow attitude on the part of the Soviets are being overtaken by reports that they and other Bloc members are telling the Indonesians that West New Guinea is theirs for the taking. Poland has offered to give concrete assistance to "the limit of its capabilities." [redacted]
- D. The Menzies government, with its paper-thin majority, is being hard pressed by the Labor opposition to take a stiffer stand against the Indonesians and the issue may precipitate a new general election.

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5. Sino-Soviet relations

[redacted] Moscow is calling home its ambassador to Peiping, leaving its embassy in the hands of a chargé, and [redacted] the Chinese are cutting their staff in Moscow to a bare minimum. In the present strained atmosphere we regard these reports as plausible.

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6.

Egypt

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7. Soviets beg off on
Castro's Communist
professions

His public espousals of "Socialism" and "Marxism-Leninism," are finding no echo in Moscow, whose New Year's and National Day messages to Havana, persist in denying the Cubans that much ideological affinity. It is our feeling that the Russians have no intention of taking on the commitments, in the military field, for example, that would be due Castro as a member of the Bloc nor of embracing him totally until they are more confident of his political longevity.

NOTES

- A. The US Mission in Berlin feels that the Soviets may be on the verge of some new moves affecting allied rights in Berlin--possibly in the form of "legal incorporation" of Berlin into East Germany.
- B. Agriculture will be a central topic at the Soviet Central Committee meeting scheduled to begin on February 12. [REDACTED] The government has already backed off on one of the most widely-publicized elements in Khrushchev's agricultural reforms under which control of farm machinery was transferred from state-run installations to the collective farms themselves. A year-end decree imposes stiff criminal penalties for misuse of machinery and reinforces the government's supervision.. 50X1
- C. Castro is trying to organize a so-called conference of undeveloped countries in Havana to coincide with the opening of the Punta del Este meeting. He seems to be getting a very meager response.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE